

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith is an attached sheet of drawing including new Fig. 1. This sheet is labeled [NEW SHEET].

Attachment(s): New Sheet (Fig. 1)

REMARKS

Claims 8 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The amendments to the claims are shown by underlining (for additions) and strikeouts (for deletions).

The Drawings have been amended. No new matter has been added to the Drawings.

The Specification has been amended. No new matter has been added to the Specification of record.

Claims 5 to 14 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Objections to the Drawings

The Drawings were objected to for not showing some limitations from the claims. The Drawings have been amended to correct all of these informalities. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the Drawings in view of the above amendments.

The Specification

The Specification was modified in accordance with the changes to the Drawing. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, claims 8 and 13 recite “the digital broadcasting network.” Antecedent bases have been corrected above. Claim 10 to 14 recite “an arrangement.” Those claims are system claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no indefiniteness remains in the claims and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5 to 7, 9 to 12, and 14, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,170,005 to Meandzija (“Meandzija reference”) in view of WO 96/07267 to Chaney (“Chaney reference”).

The Meandzija reference refers to synchronization and information exchange between communication components using a network management operations and control paradigm. The Meandzija reference concerns a management entity component, such as a computer workstation operated at a control center, coordinates the actions of different agent components, such as hardware used at the headend or uplink site of a television network.

The Chaney reference concerns a system processing a video signal including a plurality of signal components representing respective ones of a plurality of video programs such as pay-TV programs.

In contrast to both the Meandzija and Chaney references, claim 5 is directed to a method for clearing a customer-specific entitlement in a conditional access system to receive a chargeable service from a service provider by using a security module on which is stored at least one of a security algorithm and the customer-specific entitlement as at least one of a software program and data, including: specifically assigning an EMM clearing signal to the security module to provide a specifically assigned EMM clearing signal; and controlling a right-of-access by a customer through a service center, in response to a request from the service provider to the service center, using the specifically assigned EMM clearing signal by performing one of: (i) an indirect clearing operation of: sending the specifically assigned EMM clearing signal from the service center to the service provider via at least one of a telephone system and a data communication system; feeding the specifically assigned EMM clearing signal for the chargeable service into a control unit of the service provider; and activating the security module via the control unit by using the specifically assigned EMM clearing signal; and (ii) a direct clearing operation by sending the specifically assigned EMM clearing signal from the service center, with an assistance of a data transmission service in a digital broadcasting service, to the security module to clear the customer. Neither reference – alone or in combination – describe each and every feature of claim 5 as required. The remaining claims 6, 7, 9 to 12, and 14, are dependent on or recite features analogous to claim 5. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Further, such combination of references is not believed proper since each goes to separate technologies.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 5 to 14 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the objections and rejections to the present application have been obviated, and that pending claims 5 to 14 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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